

SUMMER 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| REQUIRED COURSES | 1 |
| BAR TESTED ELECTIVES | 1 |
| SEMINARS | 1 |
| ELECTIVE EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION COURSES | 2 |
| OPEN ENROLLMENT PERSPECTIVES COURSES | 2 |
| CLINICS AND EXTERNSHIPS | 2 |

REQUIRED COURSES

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE: INVESTIGATION

This course examines the procedural aspects of the criminal justice system with emphasis on the impact of the fourth, fifth, and sixth amendments to the United States Constitution on state and federal prosecutions. Topics include the law of arrest, search and seizure, police interrogation and the privilege against self-incrimination. This is a required second year course.

LEGAL PRACTICE III

This course is designed to provide in-depth instruction in legal writing and analysis, and to help prepare students for legal practice. Students will complete a series of in-class and take-home exercises and will receive feedback on their writing throughout the semester. In addition, students will meet individually with their professor to discuss assignments, and to enhance their writing and analytical skills.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

This course analyzes the responsibility of lawyers and judges from the perspectives of the rules and case law, the profession and the client/consumer. Topics include the historical, political, and sociological bases of legal ethics; conflicts of interests; attorney-client privilege; admission to the bar; disciplinary matters and procedures; unauthorized practice of law; attitudes toward bench and bar; professional liability; and canons of ethics and codes of professional responsibility. This is a required second year course.

BAR TESTED ELECTIVES

FAMILY LAW

This course examines the underlying social and economic principles of family life, its regulation by government, and constitutional limitations on regulation. Direct laws covering marriage, divorce, and child custody will be examined but also the course will cover those areas of law-property, income maintenance, medical care, schooling and crime-that also have direct impact on families in this society.

SEMINARS

CLIMATE CHANGE LAW AND POLICY

This course explores the impact that climatic changes are having, and will continue to have, on law and policy in the United States. Recent reports anticipate increased climate change impacts including water

scarcity and decreased quality, ocean warming and acidification, sea level rise and coastal impacts, extreme weather events, risks to public health, increased forest wildfires, and national security risks. Coastal states are on the forefront for these climate change impacts. Many coastal states are beginning to address adaptation through changes in law and policy. This course will examine the framework for federal and state policy and law changes to adapt to climate change, and the status of efforts throughout the United States. While the focus will be on efforts within the nation in coastal areas, the course will briefly discuss non-coastal and international climate change laws and policies. Students will be evaluated based on class participation and a paper that can fulfill their writing requirement.

ELECTIVE EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION COURSES

FAMILY & DIVORCE MEDIATION

This upper-level legal skills development course is intended to provide the student with an understanding of the contexts in which family conflict arises, the various legal and practical issues in play when families disintegrate, and with in-depth training in the skills that a mediator might employ to help the divorcing parties resolve their differences. The course exposes the student to relevant factors and normative approaches used by courts in dividing property, determining child support, custody, visitation, and spousal support among other issues, while recognizing that parties in mediation are empowered to reach their own agreements with the aid of the mediator. Role playing exercises are used to integrate theory with practice.

INTERVIEWING & COUNSELING

This skills course develops the craft of the lawyer in client interviewing and counseling. The course provides a theoretical framework for and experience with simulated interviewing and counseling in the legal setting. Skills are introduced and honed through lecture, demonstrations, discussion, role playing, simulations, practical exercises and critiques.

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERSPECTIVES COURSES

HANGING A SHINGLE: STARTING A LAW FIRM

In this seminar, students will learn about starting and managing a law practice. Including goal setting, and having a vision for your firm, developing a business plan, how to incorporate best practices for hiring, managing, and firing employees, managing firm finances, self-care and avoiding burnout, and dealing with difficult client situations.

CLINICS AND EXTERNSHIPS

COASTAL RESILIENCE LAW AND POLICY CLINIC

Climate change is already affecting communities throughout the United States. As climate change increasingly affects homes, public infrastructure, and other developments, state and local governments may desire to implement novel policies and regulations to address increasing environmental pressures. Many of these policy and regulatory changes will be designed and implemented by state and local government officials, many who are already very busy. In an effort to assist these communities, the Marine Affairs Institute at Roger Williams University School of Law has created the Coastal Community Resilience Law and Policy Clinic. It assists local and state governments with law, policy, and regulatory research related to creating more resilient communities.

The clinic provides students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience working with local and state government agencies on proactively addressing coastal resilience. Students will be exposed to local land use law and planning, municipal, state, and federal laws, climate change law and policy, research techniques, and writing. Students will have the opportunity to work with stakeholders on important issues, to gain in-depth substantive knowledge on the applicable law and its real-world application, and to draft a high-quality written product, and may have the opportunity to present their work in a professional setting. The clinic is four credits and meets T/Th from 9 AM – 5:30 PM at the Marine Affairs Institute.

SUMMER CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP SEMINAR

The Summer Clinical Externship Program combines our Corporate Counsel, Prosecution and Government and Public Interest Programs for the summer semester. Students train under the supervision of practicing attorneys in those legal settings and attend a weekly seminar. The seminar will focus on professional identity formation, goal setting, ethics, informal presentation skills and other lawyering skills. Students must secure their own placement and all placements must be vetted and approved by RWU Law.